Hands Off

KOREA

and

FORMOSA

by GUS HALL

2 cents

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

This pamphet contains the text of an address delivered by Gus Hall, National Secretary of the Communist Party, at a packed Madison Square Garden meeting in New York, held under the auspices of the Civil Rights Congress on June 28, 1950.

Mr. Hall, one of the eleven Communist leaders convicted in the notorious Foley Square "thought control" trial, and now free on bail while his conviction is under appeal, is one of the outstanding leaders of the peace forces in the U.S.A. In this speech, he sounds a sharp warning that the current Wall Street-inspired war provocations in Korea, unleashed immediately following the visit of John Foster Dulles and leading military representatives of the U.S., are but the counterpart of the fascist-like repressions at home which have already jailed Eugene Dennis, Howard Fast, John Howard Lawson, George Marshall, and many others. Both are intended to pave the way to World War III.

Mr. Hall served in the U.S. Navy, in the Pacific theatre, during the war against the fascist Hitler-Hirohito-Mussolini Axis.

Published by NEW CENTURY PUBLISHERS, 832 Broadway, New York 3, N. Y. July, 1950 PRINTED IN U.S.A.

I HAD PLANNED TO SPEAK tonight about the cold terror bred by the cold war. I wanted to speak about Gene Dennis, and what the imprisonment of the Communist Party's general secretary means. I wanted to say something about our appeal from the Foley Square frame-up, and the urgent need for united action in defense of peace and the Bill of Rights.

In a sense, swift-moving events have spoken for me.

Tonight, Americans of every creed and color, every walk of life, every political belief are drawn close together by a common fear of war, and a common desire for peace.

The cold war has run its course.

Yesterday, President Truman announced that the United States has launched an undeclared shooting war against all the peoples of Asia and the Pacific.

United States air and sea forces are in Korea. The 7th fleet is off the shores of Formosa. The United States military forces in the Philippines have been strengthened. All-out military assistance is being given to the French imperialists in Indo-China, where a U.S. military mission now directs operations.

Only when the orders had been given, the de-

stroyers sent and bombs dropped, only then did Mr. Truman "graciously" inform the American people and the United Nations that the undeclared war had begun.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD have been forewarned. A week or so ago Secretary of State Acheson admitted that people were chilled by the words "cold war." He suggested as a substitute the words "peace through strength."

Call it what you will, we are now confronted by a policy of naked, armed struggle for the imperialist domination of the Far East—where hundreds of millions of people are fighting and dying for the rights we Americans won in 1776.

Not since the end of World War II has the peace of the world been in such grave danger. What is our answer to this challenge? Shall we now scurry for shelter? Must we bow to the "inevitable"—and wait for atomic destruction?

I say again, as we Communists and many others have said before—even in this zero hour *World War III is not inevitable!*

Peace can still be saved. We throw Mr. Acheson's words back in his teeth — yes, peace through strength—through the strength of all peace-loving peoples united in action to stop the warmakers

dead in their tracks.

That means we Americans must do our part.

The stories we have been reading in our monopoly-controlled press tell us little about what is really happening in Asia. As little as the stories that come from our own steel or coal towns, when American workers are on strike. All of us are familiar with the scare headline: PICKETS COMMIT ACT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST PEACEFUL POLICE!

We know that behind it is the real story—of speed-up and starvation wages, of just demands and swollen profits.

The Negro people know all about this kind of reporting. Willie McGee and the Martinsville Seven know. Haywood Patterson, arrested again last night by the F.B.I., knows. The headline screams RAPE! But the real story is about lynchings and hunger in the Black belt, rat-infested Harlem slums, jimcrow in industry and education. The real story is about the Negro people's struggle to free themselves from Dixiecrat and Wall Street oppression.

In Asia, the real story is that the whole rotten structure of empire is crumbling. The colored peoples of the world, millions and hundreds of millions of them, are breaking down the prison walls of colonial bondage. They have had enough of for-

eign masters—Japanese, British, French, or Dutch. They have seen for themselves that imperialism made in the U.S.A. is no different from any other brand. They have had a taste of the Southern Bourbon's lash.

They don't want Point Four. They want Point One—the right to determine their own destiny, rule their own lands, and profit from their own labor.

What these hundreds of millions want they are determined to have, and that is why they were the best fighters against our common enemy, the Japanese imperialists.

The bipartisans of 1950 are as desperate, and as reckless, as were the British Tories of 1776. At all cost, they are hell-bent to crush this mighty movement of national liberation. That is the real story in all the Far East—and the real story about Korea.

THERE ARE 100,000 ARMED TROOPS in Wall Street's South Korea. Monday morning's New York *Times* said that they are "probably the most Americanized of all foreign troops trained by United States officers."

But by Monday night, the radio was complaining that under the American uniforms beat Korean hearts, and that even the mercenaries refuse to kill

their Korean brothers with American guns.

The 100,000 American-trained and armed troops face 100,000 South Korean guerrilla patriots. Repeated "Communist extermination campaigns" — on the Chiang Kai-shek model—have only exterminated all illusion about American imperialism, and filled the South Koreans with hatred for its puppet Synghman Rhee.

How much "Communist propaganda" does it take to make a people disloyal to starvation, mass eviction, mass unemployment, and mass arrests?

The Synghman Rhee clique has set up little Un-American Committees in every village and block in South Korea. Even the U.S.-run UN Commission had to report that under this terror "89,710 people had been arrested between September 4, 1948 and April 20, 1949."

Only yesterday it was said in Washington that "Men will always long for protection against the midnight arrest, the slave camp, the torture chamber."

Do you know who said it? None other than Harry S. Truman, the man who ordered the Korean people bombed because they not only long for freedom but fight to get it.

Industry has come to a stand-still in South Korea. The Rhee paper in Seoul had to report that agri-

culture was only a matter of scratching the earth until death from starvation came. Only the prisons offer shelter — and there is a shortage of prisons.

This is not Communism. This is Big Business—American Big Business. The Koreans have had enough of it. They want to unify their country, run it their own way and for the benefit of all its people—North and South.

Even the New York *Times* Hong Kong correspondent had to report that "The theme song of the official North Korean radio during the past year has been the quest for the peaceful unification of the Fatherland."

He found it "strange" that all the warlike talk has come from the South Korean leaders—from the puppets who parrot their Washington masters.

"VINEGAR JOE" STILWELL used to call the Nanking government "the manure pile" and Chiang Kai-shek "the peanut."

The Seoul regime is another manure pile, and Rhee a more miserable peanut. In desperation and despair, Rhee wanted long ago to try a reckless offensive against the People's Democratic Korean Republic in the North. His last hope was the Pentagon. And he complained that the word from Washington was: wait till the time is ripe.

All this was reported in the New York *Herald Tribune* last November first. It was confirmed last Monday by the *Times*.

Would an even more desperate Rhee, whose regime was on the verge of collapse, have failed to move in June—when Washington's time was ripe? Would the Korean People's Democratic Republic, whose assembly includes an equal number of representatives from the South and North, have any reason to provoke armed conflict when the imminent fall of the Rhee puppet was opening the way for peaceful unification?

Of course not! Common sense, and all known facts, prove that it was the Washington puppet—not the free Koreans—who committed an unprovoked act of aggression last Saturday night.

THE AGGRESSION was well prepared. John Foster Dulles had returned from Seoul to Japan. General MacArthur was waiting for the go-signal. Today *South* Korea is being bombed by the American air forces.

This is a good time to recall that this same John Foster Dulles urged just such acts of war provocation less than two years ago. In fact, this was one reason the people of New York voted to remove him from public office.

This is also a time to remember that General MacArthur is practiced in murderous attacks on needy people. It was he who commanded the massacre of the World War I bonus marchers on Anacostia Flats.

These two Wall Street agents have been working to lay the basis for a separate peace with Japan, which would include a repudiation of the agreement to return Formosa to China that was incorporated in the articles of surrender accepted by Japan.

The country of our World War II enemy is being readied to serve as a military base for aggressive war against our World War II allies—the Soviet Union and China. Another rape of Manchuria is included in this package.

The mass murder now going on in Korea is a political move, designed to open the door for direct military action against Formosa, Indo-China, Indonesia, Malaya and the Philippines. It is an act of aggression—aimed at the reconquest of free China.

When the crisis in Korea was first made known, all peace-loving peoples looked with hope to the United Nations for a just solution. I think I am not alone in feeling that this hope was betrayed. At the behest of the United States, the Security

Council acted with indecent haste—and without even going through the motions of an investigation. Last night it obliged the United States again—by asking it to do what had already been done without permission.

The Truman Administration is in contempt of the United Nations.

Just a week or so ago Mr. Trygve Lie called for a Security Council meeting to consider his ten-point peace plan. Washington answered—nothing doing. But Washington was quick to bring the Security Council together—when its game was to get its war provocations okayed.

Who is undermining confidence in the United Nations and sabotaging its work for peace? Only the two-faced Truman Administration, which uses the U.N. as another broadcasting station for the "Voice of America."

The United Nations can, and should, help save world peace by upholding Korea's right to independence and democratic unity. But if it is to be the United Nations in fact, as well as in name, it must send the Kuomintang usurpers packing. The Chinese People's Republic derives its authority from 450,000,000 liberated people. Let it speak for them in the councils of the United Nations.

The U.N. cannot effectively deal with any prob-

lem—least of all the problems of Asia—as long as the new China is excluded. That is why the Soviet Union stays away from its sessions at present. The Soviet Union is not on strike against the United Nations. It has been locked out. It is our job to see that the lock-out is broken.

All peace-loving peoples, and in the first place we Americans, should now work to rebuild the U.N. in the image of its original purpose and Charter. If we succeed in this undertaking, a truly United Nations could end the undeclared war in the Far East, order the withdrawal of all imperialist forces, protect the colonial peoples' right to independence, and exert its full potential influence to avert the catastrophe of an atomic war.

Has the Soviet Union been guilty of "indirect aggression" in the Far East? History throws a revealing light on that question, and on those who make that base and slanderous charge.

In the year 1904, Japan committed an act of direct aggression against Korea, invaded and later annexed it. At that time, Russia was ruled by the Czars, and Senator Robert Taft's father was U.S. Secretary of War. The United States had a treaty of friendship with Korea, ratified way back in 1883. In violation of that treaty, the United States gave its blessing to the Japanese aggressor and

approved its annexation of Korea.

Another George Kennan, anticipating the one who is so influential in shaping the bipartisan foreign policy of today, hailed this decision. He said it had "relieved Korea from all fear of Russian domination."

There is no "indirect aggression" in the Far East today. There is only the direct aggression of the American imperialists, ruthlessly bent on crushing the people's struggle to redress their century-old grievances. All Asia is stirred by the proud words of Mao Tse-tung: "Never again will China be an insulted nation." The ferment of national liberation is seething in all the insulted nations on this earth.

There is no mysterious "Asiatic blood tie" that turns these peoples toward the Soviet Union as toward the rising sun. In the land of Socialism a host of liberated nations and peoples live together in peace and friendship, free from every kind of oppression and racial inequality.

That is the simple reason why the profit-mad American monopolists and their Southern Bourbon partners cannot win "moral leadership," or break the bonds uniting the U.S.S.R. with the freedom-hungry peoples of the world.

Our American imperialists are gluttons for

punishment. They learn nothing from defeat. They have not yet been convinced that in this mid-century world there really are people who care too much for freedom to take oppression lying down.

The banker-generals who run the Washington show found this out in Czechoslovakia in 1947. But they talked themselves into believing that was just an unlucky year for war provocations. In China they made a longer test, that cost many Chinese lives and billions of dollars sweated out of the American workers. But in the end these incurable interventionists got just what they deserved—total and ignominious defeat.

And still they have not learned that today they must reckon with a new kind of people, who fight against all odds because they know what they are fighting for. They know how to use the very arms and guns sent against them—not Russian but American and Japanese guns, as Hanson Baldwin has to admit today.

These new people are able to defeat war provocations—but they don't stop at partial victories. They go on to destroy the base for future provocations. There are people of this new kind in Korea, Formosa, and Viet-Nam—and Asia is teeming with hundreds of millions of them. There are people of this kind in every country—and in our own, of

course. Some, as we know too well, may be put in prison. But we know, too, that those who remain free fight all the harder and the number grows until all are free.

THESE ARE THE AMERICANS who are now gathering millions of signatures to the Stockholm peace pledge, and working for a July Fourth amnesty for the anti-fascist prisoners.

They did not lose confidence in their own strength when the cold war jailers put Gene Dennis, Carl Marzani, George Marshall, John Howard Lawson, Dalton Trumbo, Edward Barsky, Howard Fast and other anti-fascists behind prison bars.

I don't think many Americans are going to lose their heads now, when a shooting war is a reality and new waves of mass arrests and mass frame-up trials threaten. The hot war in the Far East has not lulled the American people's fear of atomic world war. On the contrary, now more than ever they see the need to outlaw the atomic bomb through international agreement, and brand as a war criminal the first government to use atomic weapons against any nation.

In spite of the Big Lies dinned in their ears every hour on the hour, our fellow Americans are eager to hear the truth. This coming July Fourth

we must go among the people, and assure them that all the peoples of the Far East are going to have their Independence Day—as surely as we had ours.

The question is: how great a price must they pay for it—how much greater a price must we Americans pay if we permit our government to answer their cry for freedom with atomic destruction.

Five million signatures to the Stockholm peace petition will give Mr. Truman something to think about! A real clamor for the amnesty of those who are already prisoners of the cold terror will help set them free. It will do more. It will help prevent the bloody terror which threatens to accompany the new undeclared war.

Hands off Korea! Let the Korean people form a free, united, and independent government!

Bring the U.S. Navy and Airforce home! Stop the bombing of the Korean people!

Break the U.N. lock-out of China and the Soviet Union! Make the U.N. a force for peace!

Demand that President Truman negotiate a Peace Pact with the Soviet Union and China, and end the undeclared war!

Sign the Stockholm Peace Pledge!

Demand freedom for Gene Dennis, and all the cold war prisoners!